

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2801

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 2775

E O 11652 GDS

TAGS CG, SZ, PINS, PFOR

SUBJ: FORMER MINISTERS BOMBOKO AND NENDAKA PRESENTED TO PRESS
IN KINSHASA

REF: KISANGANI 0062 (NOTAL)

1. VOICE OF ZAIRE APRIL 4 AND OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY AZAP APRIL 5
ANNOUNCED THAT AFP CORRESPONDENT HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO SPEAK IN
KINSHASA TO FORMER FONMIN BOMBOKO AND FORMER FINMIN NENDAKA
(ARRESTED IN OCTOBER 1971 IN CONNECTION WITH ALLEGED PLOT ON MOBUTU'
S
LIFE) " WHO SEVERAL FOREIGN PRESS ORGANS HAVE CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN
SECRETLY EXECUTED." AZAP NOTED THAT BOTH MEN LIVE AND MOVE FREELY
IN THEIR NATIVE REGIONS (EQUATEUR AND HAUT ZAIRE).

2. SUBSTANCE OF REPLIES OF BOTH MEN TO SEVERAL QUESTIONS PUT TO THEM
FOLLOW. BOTH WERE SENT TO A FORMER PRISON FARM WHERE THEY WERE
GIVEN

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HOUSES AND ENJOYED MOST CONFORTS REQUIRED BY THEIR SOCIAL POSITION. THEY WERE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THEIR HOME AREAS ON SEPT 1, 1972. DURING PERIOD OF INCARCERATION, MEN READ OR PLAYED GAMES. GUARDS TREATED THEM WITH RESPECT AND THEY WERE NOT FORCED TO WORK.

THANKS

TO RADIOS PROVIDED BY GOVERNMENT, THEY WERE ABLE TO FOLLOW DEVELOPMENTS

IN KINSHASA. BOTH MEN SAID THEY SUPPORTED MOBUTU'S CURRENT POLICIES. THEY HAD NOT HESITATED TO DROP CHRISTIAN NAMES FOR AUTHENTIC ZAIRIAN ONES WHEN MOBUTU DECREED THIS. IN ANSWER

TO

QUESTION, "DO YOU THINK

YOU CAN BE 'SALVAGED'?" BOMBOKO REPLIED THAT THE MATTER HAD BEEN SETTLED BY MOBUTU WHEN HE SAID ALL ZAIRIANS ARE ACTORS, NOT SPECTATORS, IN THE REVOLUTION. "WE STARTED OUT WITH THE FOUNDER-PRESIDENT, AND WE MUST CONTINUE WITH HIM." NENDAKA SAID THERE NO QUESTION OF BEING "SALVAGED"

SINCE BOTH MEN ARE VERY ACTIVE IN ECONOMIC LIFE OF COUNTRY, SETTING EXAMPLE FOR YOUTH. AT CLOSE OF INTERVIEW, BOTH MEN RETURNED TO SUBJECT OF MOBUTU'S POLICY OF "RADICALIZING THE REVOLUTION" TO EMPHASIZE THEIR STRONG SUPPORT FOR IT. NENDAKA OBSERVED IT WAS POLICY THEY HAD HELPED

FORMULATE WHILE IN OFFICE, AND ADDED, "WE KNOW THAT MUCH MORE RADICAL POLICIES ARE COMING BECAUSE REVOLUTION IS PERMANENT. CONSEQUENTLY, LIKE ALL CHILDREN OF THIS COUNTRY, WE ARE READY TO ANSWER CALL OF THE REVOLUTION."

3. CONJECTURE HERE CONCERNING REASONS FOR SURFACING NENDAKA AND BOMBOKO IN KINSHASA AT THIS TIME VARIES. ON THEORY (REFTEL) IS THAT THEY WILL BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO POLITICAL LIFE. BELIGIAN EMBASSY HAS INFORMATION THAT MOBUTU IRKED BY STORIES IN BELGIAN AND FRENCH PRESS TO EFFECT THAT MEN HAD BEEN LIQUIDATED.

4. COMMENT: THERE APPEARS TO BE STRONG CONNECTION BETWEEN THIS EVENT AND CASE OF FORMER FONMIN LOSEMBE WHOSE EXTRADITION TO ZAIRE IS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION BY SWISS TRIBUNAL. IT WOULD CLEARLY HURT CHANCES OF OBTAINING LOSEMBE'S RETURN TO FACE EMBEZZLEMENT AND TREASON CHARGES HERE IF SWISS CAME TO BELIEVE THAT NENDAKA AND BOMBOKO HAD BEEN SECRETLY EXECUTED.

VANCE

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